

TRADES COUNCIL

NEWS

Bulletin 23

Produced by Fife Federation of Trades Councils
Flat 3, 105 Queensferry Road, Rosyth

DON'T FORGET THE VICTIMISED MINERS

Keep up the campaign to win back the jobs of the victimised miners. That's the message from Levenmouth & Kirkcaldy Trades Councils. Bobby O'Donnell, chairperson of Levenmouth, called this "easily the most important issue for all workers in Scotland at the moment."

Meanwhile the NUM has revealed that over 43% of those sacked were branch officials, and another 27% were members of strike committees. "These figures prove that the Coal Board's actions are nothing short of an attempt to smash our union" Jim Young, NUM Agent, told the annual conference of the Further Education Lecturers' Union. Delegates were told that in sacking these men without hearing their case, Albert Wheeler and the Board are refusing to follow procedures laid down by law in the 1946 Nationalisation Act.

★ Money is desperately needed to support these men. Send donations to NUM, 5 Hillside Crescent, Edinburgh EH7 5DZ.

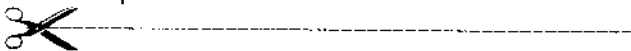
★ SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE BULLETIN

JUNE 15 : HELP MAKE IT A MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION FOR JOBS

On the 15th of June we've called a demonstration in Dunfermline. It's to demand action on Fife's jobs crisis - against the cuts in the workforce of the Dockyard, Pits, Local Government and many other places.

YOU CAN HELP MAKE IT A SUCCESS

The next issue of Trades Council News will be a Job Special. We'd like you to take copies to give out, in factories, in the streets, in the housing schemes. Use the form below to order more copies.



Name.....

ADDRESS.....

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No. of copies required:

DIARY

- 25 & 26 June 'Hazards in the Office' 2 day course. Leven Technical College. Ring John Malone 7287 7282 for details.
- 25 & 26 May 'Which Way for the Health Service?' Weekend School. Leven Technical College. Ring John Malone 7287 7282 for details.
- 1 June Kirkcaldy CND Sea Fishing Rally for the Youth CND. Anti-Trident Demonstration in Glasgow. Ring Brian Loan, Kirkcaldy 205879 for details.
- 1 June Women's Day Leven Technical College. Ring Eric Fisher 7287 7281 for details.
- 15 June Peace Picnic 10.00 - 11.00 Military Communications Base. Assemble 10.00 am. Falkland Town Square. Organized by Kirkcaldy CND.
- 15 June March for Jobs, Dunfermline 11.00 am Pittencrieff Park. For rally in Carnegie Hall.
- 13 July Vigil. Hastherykoo Civil Defence bunker. Assemble 10.00. Organized by Kirkcaldy CND.

BOYCOTT APARTHEID

The newly formed Fife Branch of Anti-Apartheid have got off to an active start. They've been leafleting outside Richards Shops in Kirkcaldy. This firm have just taken over a major contract to sell clothes made in South Africa.

Make sure you boycott South African Goods. Cape Apples might taste good, but the continued massacres in the townships in South Africa should take your appetite away.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

This week a Fife family - with 2 young children - are being evicted by the Halifax Building Society. The husband is a sacked miner, and the Society demanded immediate payment of all debts built up in the strike.

Is this what we've come to in Thatcher's Britain? The penalty for fighting for your job is that you are sacked and made homeless.

How YOU can support the Bulletin:

- send us your news
- order copies to give out
- send donations - without regular donations

BUS SPECIAL

MOST OF THIS ISSUE IS DEVOTED TO THE TRANSPORT BILL AND HOW IT THREATENS FIFE. We hope you will read it carefully. We're warned about this Bill - we think you should be warned too.

● So what can YOU do stop it becoming law.

Write to your MP. They're there to represent you. Let them know that you oppose this attack on your public transport.

Write to the papers. let them know what a disaster this Bill could be for Fife.

Find out more about the proposals. Arrange a meeting. We'll supply a speaker.

● Remember, if you keep silent, you could lose your bus service.

DON'T LET THEM DRIVE OVER US

"It's the elderly, the infirm, mothers with small children, the young and unemployed who'll suffer most. For more and more people getting to the shops, visiting friends and families, even getting to work, will become more difficult, if not impossible. For non-drivers, and those without cars, travel will become almost a thing of the past."

That's how Peter Young, of the T&GWU, described the threat to public transport from the Transport Bill at a recent public meeting. Let's have a look at what its effects could be here in Fife.

Rural and unprofitable bus services could disappear, including many early morning and late night town services. The Bill opens up all routes to competition. Those in which a profit can be made will be 'creamed off' by cowboy firms.

This would prevent Alexanders using profits from some routes to subsidise others, what is called the 'cross-subsidising' of services. This is worth £1,500 million a year. The government has offered a paltry £20 million to 'protect' rural services from this cut.

Fares will rise. Fife Region has kept fares down through subsidies. The government wants to stop local authorities from giving any general transport subsidies.

Free travel for old people, and half fares for 14-16 year olds will be under threat.

These are just some of the effects we'll see here in Fife if this Bill becomes law. Add your voice to the protest.

CATCH OUR BUS !

This week Fife bus workers are making a major effort to let the people at Fife know of the dangers of the Transport Bill. You can help!

On Saturday 25th May they're touring Fife - with a bus - handing out leaflets and getting petitions filled in. If you can give a hand, ring Danny Cepok (Kirkcaldy 204798).

Earlier in the week they're visiting many of the villages in Fife that could lose their bus service if this Bill becomes law. Again, ring Danny to find out when they're in your area, and how you can help.

○ Paris has had more public transport investment in the last 10 years than the whole of the U.K.

○ Tax relief on company cars is worth £2000 million a year - more than all the public money we spend on bus and rail put together.

○ Austria, Denmark, France, Japan, Norway, Sweden, West Germany and the U.S.A. all have systems of tax relief for public transport fares to work. Britain is the odd one out.

THIS
ACTIVITY
REQUIRES A
POLITICAL
FUND

AST WORD



PLUG